

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please note paragraph 5 with the following amended changes:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is simplified diagram of an optical switching network according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. IA, 1B, and 1C are simplified diagrams of the present system in alternative deployment embodiments;

Fig. 2 is a detailed diagram of an optical switching system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a more detailed diagram of an optical switching system including a redundant switch fabric according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a more detailed block diagram of an optical switching system according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 4A through 4H are more detailed diagrams of elements in the system according to embodiments of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a simplified flow diagram of a method according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are detailed diagrams of redundant switch systems of the above Fig. according to embodiments of the present invention.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph 5:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is simplified diagram of an optical switching network according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. IA, 1B, and 1C are simplified diagrams of the present system in alternative deployment embodiments;

Fig. 2 is a detailed diagram of an optical switching system according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a more detailed diagram of an optical switching system including a redundant switch fabric according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a more detailed block diagram of an optical switching system according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 4A through 4H are more detailed diagrams of elements in the system according to embodiments of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a simplified flow diagram of a method according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are detailed diagrams of redundant switch systems of the above Fig. according to embodiments of the present invention.